

GAP ANALYSIS FOR HUNGER

Prepared by DES-Community Services Administration July 1999

- ❖ There is no single “hunger” measure, therefore, several hunger factors must be viewed to create a picture of hunger. The following data attempts to provide such a picture.
- ❖ The Food Stamp Program (FSP) is considered the major program that fights hunger in this country. Participation in FSP is often used as the yardstick to measure hunger.
- ❖ **Arizona has the largest proportional reduction in food stamp participation of any state in the nation, About one out of every four poor people (includes adults and children) in Arizona receive food stamp benefits.**
- ❖ Between 1990 and 1998, Arizona’s food banks have increased their distribution of food by almost 40% in order to try to keep up with the demand. However, it is important to understand that a large portion of this increase was due to the increase in the statewide gleaning project. Food from this project is usually in the form of fresh produce which has a short shelf life and requires refrigeration.
- ❖ The 1998 annual report for the statewide Information & Referral service indicates that the **top requested need was for emergency food.**
- ❖ The conclusion is that poor people are meeting their food needs by accessing the food banks and pantries for emergency food boxes. This has created an increased demand on the food bank and pantry network in the state.

**GAP BETWEEN FOOD STAMP PARTICIPATION
AND THE NUMBER OF POOR PEOPLE**

